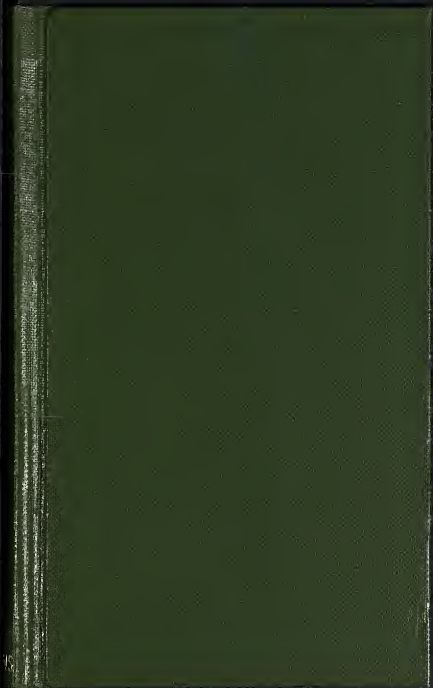
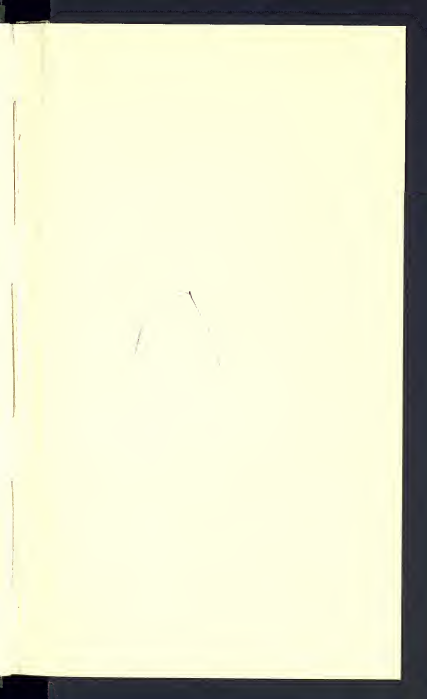




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ACCOUNT
OF
BRITTON ABBOT'S
COTTAGE AND GARDEN;

AND OF A
COTTAGER'S GARDEN in SHROPSHIRE:

TO WHICH IS ADDED
JONAS HOBSON'S ADVICE TO HIS
CHILDREN:

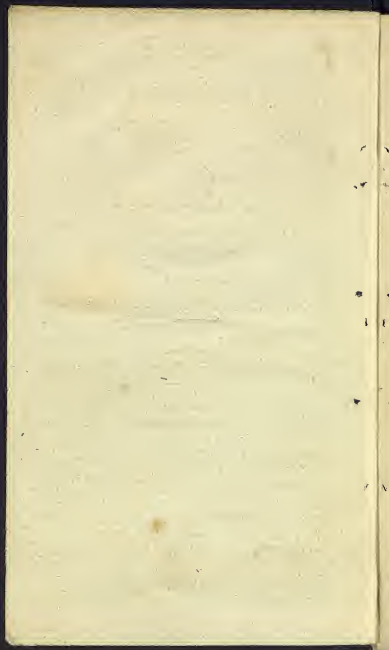
AND THE
CONTRAST BETWEEN A RELIGIOUS
AND SINFUL LIFE.

Price Two Shillings a Dozen, to give away.

LONDON:

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MANCHESTER; MOUGH, GLOUCESTER; AND LEE, AT LEWES.

1806.



AN
ACCOUNT
OF A
COTTAGE AND GARDEN
NEAR TADCASTER.

Two miles from Tadcaster, on the left-hand side of the road to York, General Ac- stands a beautiful little cottage, count of the with a garden, that has long at- Cottage, &c. tracted the eye of the traveller. The slip of land is exactly a rood, inclosed by a cut quick hedge; and containing the cottage, fifteen apple-trees, one green gage, and three winesour plum-trees, two apricot-trees, several gooseberry and currant bushes, abundance of common vegetables, and three hives of bees; being all the apparent wealth of the possessor. The singular neatness

and good order that marked every part of this little domain, and some circumstances respecting the owner, which had been mentioned to me by Dr. Burgh of York, made me anxious to obtain the history of the cottager and his family. In the end of May, 1797, I called there in my way from York; but found the house and the gate of the garden locked. In the road to Tadcaster, however, I met his wife, laden with a basket of provisions from the market, and engaged her to find her husband, who was at work about a mile off, and to send him to me at the inn at Tadcaster. When he arrived he very willingly gave me his history, as follows—

His name is Britton Abbot: his age sixty. His history seven, and his wife's nearly the same. At nine years old he had gone to work with a farmer; and being a steady careful lad, and a good labourer, particularly in what is called task-work, he had managed so well, that before he was 22 years of age, he had accumulated near £.40. He then married and took a little farm at £.30 a year; but before the end of the second year he found it prudent, or rather necessary, to quit it; having already exhausted, in his attempt to thrive upon it, almost all the little property that he had heaped together. He then fixed in a cottage at Poppleton; where, with two acres of land, and his common

right, he kept two cows. Here he had resided very comfortably, as a labourer; for nine years, and had six children living; and his wife preparing to lie in of a seventh, when an inclosure of Poppleton took place; and the arrangements made in consequence of it, obliged him to seek for a new habitation, and other means of subsistence for his family.

He applied to Squire Fairfax, and told him that, if he would let him have a little bit of ground by the road-side, "he would shew him the *fashions* on it." After in-
He builds his cottage and plants his garden.
 quiry into his character, he obtained of Mr. Fairfax the ground he now occupies; and with a little assistance from the neighbours, in the carriage of his materials, he built his present house; and planted the garden, and the hedge round it, which is a single row of quick, thirty-five years old, and without a flaw or defect. He says he cut it down six times successively when it was young. Mr. Fairfax was so much pleased with the progress of his work, and the extreme neatness of his place, that he told him he should be rent free. His answer deserves to be remembered: "Now, Sir, you have a pleasure in seeing my cottage and garden neat: and why should not other squires have the same pleasure, in seeing the cottages and gardens as nice about them? The poor would then be

“happy; and would love them, and the place where they lived: but now every little nook of land is to be let to the great farmers; and nothing left for the poor, but to go to the parish.”

He has had seven children; six of whom attained to mature age; and five are now living, and thriving in the world. His son has a little farm near Hemsley Moor; one of his daughters is the wife of a joiner at York; another, of the occupier of a little farm at Kelfield; a third, of a labouring man, who has a little land of his own, near Duffield; the fourth is the wife of a labourer, who has built a cottage for himself at Tadcaster, and wants nothing (as the father observed) but a bit of ground for a garden. Britton Abbot says he now earns 12s. and sometimes 15s. and 18s. a week, by hoeing turnips by the piece; setting quick, and other task-work: “but to be sure, (he added) *I have a grand character in all this country.*” He gets from his garden, annually, about 40 bushels of potatoes, besides other vegetables; and his fruit, in a good year, is worth from £.3 to £.4 a year. His wife occasionally goes out to work; she also spins at home, and takes care of his house and his garden. He says, they have lived very happy together for forty-five years.—To the account that I have given, it may be needless to add, that

neither he, nor any part of his family, has ever had occasion to apply for parochial relief.

Though my visit was unexpected, and he at the latter end of his Saturday's work, his clothes were neat and sufficiently clean: his countenance was healthy and open; he was a little lame in one leg, the consequence of exposure to wet and weather. He said he had always worked hard and well; but he would not deny but that he had loved a mug of good ale when he could get it. When I told him my object in inquiring after him, that it was in order that other poor persons might have cottages and gardens as neat as his, and that he must tell me *all his secret*—how it was to be done; he seemed extremely pleased, and very much affected; he said, “nothing would make poor folks more happy, than finding that great folks thought of them:” that he wished every poor man had as comfortable a home as his own; not but that he believed there might be *a few thriftless fellows*, who would not do good in it.

I asked him whether he had not a cow. He said he had had one, and she had died; and having no other place but the lane to keep his cow, he had not attempted to get another. —“Could you get land, if you had a cow?” —He thought he could.—“Supposing

Proposal
about a cow.

“then (I added) a cow could be bought for
 “£.12: and you could rent it on the terms
 “of paying down £.3 10s. immediately;
 “and then £.3 10s. at the end of each year
 “during three years; and that the cow
 “was to be yours at the end of the three
 “years, if she lived, and you paid your
 “rent regularly:—Do you think such
 “a bargain would answer for you?”—
 Yes, he said, he was sure it would very
 greatly; and there were few cottagers to
 whom it would not be a very great advantage;
 especially where they had a family of
 children. I told him to inquire whether
 he could get a little land; and I would have
 some more talk with him about it, when I
 came down in August.

OBSERVATIONS.

The history of Britton Abbot appears to
 me to merit attention. At the
 General view of his history. time of the inclosure of Popple-
 ton, when he had six young
 children living, and his wife preparing to
 lie in of a seventh, his whole little system
 of economy and arrangement was at once
 destroyed; his house, his garden, his little
 field, taken from him; and all his sources
 of wealth dried up. With less success in
 his application for the rood of land, the
 spot in which his industry was to be ex-

erted, and (in justice to him it must be added) with less energy than he possesses, he might have gone with his family into a workhouse; and, from that hour, have become a *burthen* to the public, instead of being one of its most useful members.—Observe for a moment the effects of his well directed industry. Without any parochial aid, he has raised six of his seven children, to a state of maturity; and has placed them out respectably and comfortably in the world. Five of them are now living, in the middle period of life; and he continues at the age of sixty-seven, a good working labourer; happy in his own industry and good management, in the beauty and comfort of his cottage, and in the extreme fertility of his garden.

Britton Abbot possesses a degree of energy and spirit, that we must not expect to find in every cottager. If, however, the poor do not exert themselves, and have not so much forethought and management as might be wished, the fault is less in them, than in the system of our poor laws, and in the *manner* in which they are executed. Were they properly and universally encouraged to industry and economy, we should soon find thriving and happy cottagers in every part of the kingdom. Let only a tenth of the money, now spent in workhouses, in what is usually

The cottager should be encouraged to thrive in his cottage.

called "*the relief of the poor*," be applied in assisting and encouraging them to thrive and be happy in their cottages, the poor's rate will be lessened, and a national saving made both in labour and food.* The labourer is capable of more exertion, and is maintained for less than half the expense, in his cottage than in a workhouse. In his cottage he has his family around him, he has something he can call his own, he has objects to look forward to, and is the master of his own actions.—*Domestic connections, property, liberty, the hope of advancement*, those master springs of human action, exist not in a workhouse.

It is the misfortune of this country, that Defects in the well disposed and industrious poor do not receive sufficient aid or encouragement. They find no distinction made between them and the idle and profligate; except

* This experiment would be easily tried. Suppose the poor's rate of a parish so applied to be £.600 a year; and that £.60 a year of the rate were to be annually employed in assisting the most industrious and deserving labourers, to become possessors of cottages and cows: I am confident the poor's rate of that parish would be greatly diminished in a few years; probably to half its present amount. The difference between a law that *encourages* the poor to exertion, and one that attempts to *compel* them to it, is, that in the first you have the co-operation of the millions of the people who are to be the objects of the law; in the second, all the labour is thrown on *the unfortunate and unsuccessful persons*, who are to attempt to execute it.

this—that the idle and profligate are maintained in part at their expense. As the law is too frequently executed, the cottager, though poor himself, is regularly assessed for the relief of the poor; but he receives no benefit from the fund, no assistance towards the support of himself and his family, unless he is reduced to absolute want, and presents himself hopeless at the door of the workhouse.

The evil has been greatly increased by the ninth of George I. which Increased by the act of Geo. I. as to workhouses. authorizes the farming of the poor, and refuses relief to those who will not submit to reside in the workhouse.* It is, in consequence, the interest of the farmer of the workhouse, to keep it in such a condition, that (to use Mr. Parry's words †) “the honest and industrious labourer, who has brought up a large family with credit, and who from misfortune is poor, and from age past his labour, will submit to be half starved, rather than take up his abode amid such wretchedness and profligacy.” By these means workhouses become objects of terror

* An act has been lately passed (in December, 1795,) empowering the magistrates to order the cottager, under special circumstances, temporary relief at home. It has not, however, been attended to in some districts; and in others, the execution of it is very unwillingly submitted to by parish officers.

† See the first Report of the Society.

to the honest and and industrious, and at the same time the favourite resort of the dissolute and abandoned; the dirt, the waste, the disorder, the want of regulation, and the *undistinguishing treatment** of the worst and best characters, being as gratifying to them, as they are irksome and disgusting to the well disposed poor.

Let us consider what must be the effect The situation of this system on the cottager, of the cottager. —Tenant to the farmer who stated. has taken his cottage over his head, he is aware that his new landlord will require as much rent as he can contrive to pay. He has a young and increasing family; and, when times are at the best, he often finds it as much as he can do to go on, from one day to another, in their support. He can hardly expect that during the severity of the winter, the high price of bread, or the visitation of sickness, his earnings will always, and at all seasons, continue equal to the necessities of his family. If the hour of adversity arrives, he knows the rule of his parish, that “no

* An English workhouse is the only place upon earth, where the idle have the same allowance of food, and the same accommodation, as the industrious. In the table of diet of the Rasphouse of Rotterdam, there is a great difference made between those who do full work, and those who only work *half task*. In the establishment at Munich, mere necessities are allowed for those who do not work—for those who do, comforts and luxuries.

"assistance is to be given to the labourer, while he possesses any thing of his own;" and that what, with much labour and much self-denial, he shall have saved, must all be exhausted and spent, before his claim to parochial relief can be admitted. It may be well to consider what incitement *he* has to thrift and forethought. Can we confidently answer for ourselves that, so circumstanced, we should act even as well, and look as much to futurity, as he does; or that we should not be made mere sensualists by despondency? Is it perfectly clear, that we should not spend every penny that could be spared from the daily nourishment of our families, in self-indulgence at an ale-house?

Happy should I be, if I could make use of the history of Britton Abbot, Want of cottages for the labourer, encourage-ment to imitate the energetic of his industry. Of the different modes of aiding and animating the poor, none would have more tendency to raise them above the want of parochial aid, than that of enabling them progressively to follow his example, in such a manner, that the most deserving might in their turn become the owners of comfortable cottages and productive gardens; a measure which seems to be peculiarly called for by the present condition of the dwellings of the poor. It is a melancholy fact that, in most parts of

England,* their habitations are not only comfortless and devoid of accommodation, but insufficient in number; and that honest and industrious families are frequently driven into the workhouse, merely for the want of cottages in their parish.

If the custom of setting apart ground for them to build upon, were to obtain generally, and in a manner to induce and enable them to take the benefit of it, it would assist in gradually correcting this national and increasing evil, and in supplying that useful class of men with proper habitations.—It would have other very important effects. It would diminish the calls for parochial relief; it would encourage and improve the good habits of the poor; it would attach them to their parishes, and give them an increased interest and share in the property and prosperity of their country. The land required for each cottage and garden,

* There are some parts of England, particularly in the northern counties, where the habitations of the poor are very comfortable; and other parts, in which the public spirit and benevolence of individuals have done, and are doing, much to improve them in their own neighbourhood. Picturesque cottages might be so disposed around a park, as to ornament and enliven the scenery with much more effect, than those misplaced Gothic castles, and those pigmy models of Grecian temples, that perverted taste is so busy with: but it is the unfortunate principle of ornamental buildings in England, that they should be *uninhabited* and *uninhabitable*.

need not be more than a rood; the value of which would bear no possible comparison to that of the industry to be employed upon it. The quarter of an acre that Britton Abbot inclosed, was not worth a shilling a year. It now contains a good house and a garden, abounding in fruit, vegetables, and almost every thing that constitutes the wealth of the cottager. In such inclosures, the benefit to the country, and to the individuals of the parish, would far surpass any petty sacrifice of land, to be required. FIVE UNSIGHTLY, UNPROFITABLE, ACRES OF WASTE GROUND WOULD AFFORD HABITATION AND COMFORT TO TWENTY SUCH FAMILIES AS BRITTON ABBOT'S.

In order to encourage the exertions of the labourer, I should hope that this would be conceded to me, that the rood of land, inclosed for his cottage and garden (on condition of a house being erected) be held in fee simple; and that, so long as a parishioner, labouring generally within his parish, continued owner and occupier, such cottage and garden should, by parliamentary authority, be exempt from rent, taxes, rates, tithes, and all burthens whatsoever. It would be an important object to keep these little freeholds in the hands of the labourers of the parish; so that they might be transmitted

Exempt from rent and taxes, while the labourer is owner and occupant.

from father to son, like those little estates, which we contemplate with so much pleasure in Burrodale. If therefore, the exemption from rent, taxes,* &c. continued no longer than while the cottage was both the property and residence of a parishioner, generally working within his parish, it would not be of half as much value to any other person, as to him for whom it was originally intended; and if in some instances they got into other hands, they would soon return again into the possession of the labouring parishioner.

As the means of promoting industry and good conduct among the poor, I should hope that a preference would be given to "industrious parishioners, members of friendly societies;" and that the character of the man, the number of his children, and other circumstances, would induce the farmers to give him the carriage

* The exemption from land tax would create another exemption; that of not having to attend county elections. It might be proper that no settlement should be affected, or varied, by any ownership or occupation of these cottages; and that the performance of the condition, by the erection of the cottage, should be certified and recorded at the quarter sessions. The rent to be paid by a stranger should not be less than a guinea a year; to be distributable in fuel among the poor of the parish at Christmas. This would serve at once as a penalty on the intruder, and as a compensation to the parishioners.

of his materials, and his other neighbours to help him* with a pecuniary subscription. The annual sum of £10. or £20. so collected in a parish, and impartially and publicly given as a premium to the most deserving labourer in that parish (either to assist him in erecting his cottage, or to enable him to purchase his cow) would produce a great effect on the good habits of the poor; and, while it rewarded merit, would stimulate others to follow the example.

It would have other important effects.— It would greatly diminish parish rates;† for he who possesses a freehold cottage and garden, or a cow, has seldom, if ever, occasion to apply for parochial relief. By attaching the cottager to his own parish, it would secure to the farmer a certain supply of labourers, and would equa-

Its good effects as to other parishes, and to the public.

* When a young man in New England has saved a little money towards erecting his house, he applies to his townsmen for assistance: they fix the time, and all of them attend to get the building up. I have known one of those houses erected and covered in, in the course of a few days.

† Landlords and farmers, who wish their own poor's rates reduced, would do well to inquire into the amount of the poor's rates in those parishes, where labourers have gardens and cows. One annual rate of sixpence in the pound has proved fully adequate to the relief of the poor in such a parish. See the Earl of Winchilsea's letter, and some other reports, on the advantages of cottagers renting land.

lize, and keep down, the price of labour, now much enhanced by the disposition to wander about, in quest of the highest wages and the easiest work; a disposition which has occasioned a considerable waste in the produce of national labour. But this would not be all. Freehold cottages and gardens, do not only attach the owners to their country, but are also the surest pledges and securities for their conduct. The cottager, who has property, is habituated to set a higher value on himself and on his character, and seems to be of a superior order of men. Besides this, the addition, which these little freeholds might make to the industry, morals, and produce of a country,* would be an object of consideration in this respect; that the cottager, who has a garden and a little property of his own, has always before him a *pleasurable object of industry* for his leisure time: whereas, he who has none, is driven to the ale-house by the same *unhappy necessity*, that impels idle young men to the gaming table,—the want of occupation.

In the mode which I suggested to Britton Abbot, of his renting the cow, he would

* Productive gardens to cottages would, by the increased consumption of vegetables, make a considerable saving in bread corn; the same observation may be applied to cottager's cows. Of butter, eggs, and poultry, our markets might have a regular and cheap supply from cottagers.

acquire a gradually increasing interest in her; so as to make him anxious for her preservation, but not such as to involve him deeply, in case of her death, or to give him a right to dispose of her. In this way, the sum of £.15* would be sufficient to constitute a *perpetual fund*, in any parish, for supplying the *annual premium* of a cow for some industrious and well disposed labourer, as long as the landlord will consult his own interest, and afford the means of feeding her. Whether this object is to be attained by annexing ground to the cottages, or by letting to the cottager an adjistment for his cow, or by supplying him with pasture, and a certain quantity of hay,† at an annual rent: or by making it

Of cottagers
renting cows.

* Upon supposition that the price of the cow were £.12. the donor of such a fund would have to advance £.8. 10s. the first year; £.5 the second, and £.1. 10s. the third; after which the rent of £.3. 10s. paid for three years, for each cow, would produce, in future, £.10. 10s. a year: being (with the £.3. 10s. originally paid by the cottager) £.2 more than would purchase a cottager's cow every year after. The additional £.2 a year would, I presume, be sufficient to insure, for the year, the landlord's interest in the cows.

* Mr. Burdon's cow-pastures are closes of sixteen acres, for twelve cows each: he allows each cottager two loads of hay; making the hay in small stacks of four loads each, so that one stack serves two cottagers. He finds the system answer, both as to the improvement of ground, and the amount of rent. I can only say that, when I was at Castle Eden, I thought his cottager's hay stacks and cows the most pleasing ornaments of a very beautiful place.

one of the conditions on which the farmer takes his farm, that he shall keep his cottager's cow at a limited price,—whatever mode is to be adopted, will depend much on the circumstances of the country.—There is hardly any part of England, however, in which the cottager's cow may not be provided for, by one or other of these means; or by another mode, which I should prefer, when practicable, as the right which it would give the poor man would be *unalienable*; and that is, inclosing and improving from the waste,* cow pastures of ten or twelve acres each; the exclusive benefit whereof, the cottagers of the parish should enjoy at a small rent; which (after providing for fences, &c.) might go as a fund for supplying the poor of the parish with fuel. Such inclosures would be extremely gratifying and beneficial to that useful class of men, the labouring poor. The stock on them should be limited; and a preference given to labourers working within the parish, in proportion to their families, their industry, and character.

I have only to add, that my friend's history contains in it a strong proof, that, tho the cottager is benefited by the supply of a garden and of land for his cow, while he continues a *labourer*; yet, if more

Small farms
benefit nei-
ther the far-
mer, nor the
public.

* This plan has been adopted in the Iver inclosure bill now before Parliament. 31st May 1800.

land is added, just enough to constitute him *a little farmer*, with a very small capital, and to make him forego his profit and advantage as a labourer, his means of life, instead of being improved by the acquisition of land, are prejudiced. No persons earn a harder or more precarious living, or do less good with their land, than very small farmers. The condition of a labourer, who has a well-stocked garden, a couple of cows, a pig, and just ground enough to keep them, is affluence, compared with the lot of him, who attempts to live as a farmer, on a small quantity of ground, not sufficient to maintain him as a farmer, tho abundantly adequate to its object, if divided among several labourers.

16th July, 1797.

ACCOUNT
OF THE PRODUCE OF A
COTTAGER'S GARDEN
IN SHROPSHIRE.

WITHIN two miles and a half of Shrewsbury, a cottager, whose name is Richard Millward, has a house, and adjoining to it a garden and land, making about one acre and one-sixteenth of an acre, including the garden. It was formerly taken from Pully Common, since divided and inclosed. He is a collier, and the management of the ground is, in a great measure, left to his wife Jane; they have six children alive, five boys and one girl, and have buried

five. The soil of this ground, when inclosed by the cottager long ago, was a thin covering of about three or four inches of strong loam over a clay, impregnated with iron, called in Shropshire catbrain, and considered as the worst soil. It is now changed, but the original soil is still to be seen in the adjoining parts of what was the common. They pay three shillings of yearly rent for the house and land; it was leased to them thirty-eight years ago, by the present Lady Malpas, for three lives, one of which is dead.

The wife has managed the ground in a particular manner for thirteen years with potatoes and wheat, chiefly by her own labour; and in a way which has yielded good crops, and of late fully equal, or rather superior, to the produce of the neighbouring farms, and with little or no expense; but she has improved her mode of culture during the last six years.

The potatoe and wheat land, exclusive of the garden, contains sixty-four digging poles of land, eight yards square to the

pole, seventy-five of which make an acre, and is divided in two parts; one is thirty, the other thirty-four roods. One of the divisions she plants alternately with potatoes, and the other is sown with wheat. On the wheat stubble she plants potatoes in rows, and sows wheat on the potatoe ground; she puts dung in the bottom of the rows where she plants the potatoes, but uses no dung for the wheat; and she has repeated this succession for nearly the thirteen years, but with better success and more economy during the last six or seven years.

She provides manure by keeping a pig, and by collecting all the manure she can from her house, and by mixing with it the scrapings of the roads, &c. She forms it in a heap and turns it, before she puts it on her ground for potatoes.

The ground is dug for potatoes in the month of March and April, to the depth of about nine inches. This digging would cost sixpence per pole, if hired. After putting in the dung, the potatoes are planted

in rows, about twelve or fourteen inches distant. The sets are placed about four or five inches apart in the rows.

The dung is carried out in a wheelbarrow, and it takes a great many days to plant the whole, generally ten days.

Her husband always assists in digging, after his hours of ordinary labour. When the potatoes come above ground, the weeds are destroyed by the hoe, and the earth laid up on both sides to the shoots, and this is repeated from time to time, as the season requires. Hand-weeding is also used when necessary.

In the month of October when the potatoes are ripe, she takes off all the stalks or haulm of the potatoe, which she secures to produce manure by means of her pig. She now goes over the whole with a rake, and takes off all weeds, and before taking up the potatoes, she sows her wheat on as much of the ground as she can clear of potatoes that day. They are taken up with a three-pronged fork, in

which her husband assists, and by the same operation, the wheat seed is covered deep. She leaves it quite rough, and the winter frost mellows the earth, and by the earth falling down it adds much strength and vigour to the wheat plants in the spring. Her crops of wheat have been of late always good, and even this year, which in this country has not been favourable for the wheat crop, she has thrashed out fifteen Winchester bushels from her thirty-four poles, tho' part of her wheat has suffered by the mildew. The average of wheat in moderate years to her near neighbours, is twenty-eight Winchester bushels per acre, which is more than the general average of the county, being near the town dung. The straw of her wheat she carefully preserves for litter to her pig, and to increase her manure.

When her potatoes are gathered, she separates the best for use, then a proper quantity for next year's seed, and the small sort are given to her pig. She has sixteen poles for her garden, upon which she

plants peas, beans, and a part with cabbages; but has early potatoes and turnips the same year on the same ground. She sells her early potatoes and peas and cabbages at Shrewsbury, and boils the turnips for her pig. The only other expense of feeding her pig, is two or three bushels of peas, and when fit to kill, it weighs about three hundred pounds. She buys it at the age of four or five months, about the month of February, and it is killed about the month of January of the following year.

When she first began this method of alternate crops, and for several years after, she depended on the neighbouring farmers for ploughing the land and harrowing, both for the potatoes and the wheat; but as the farmers naturally delayed to work for her, till their own work was chiefly over, her land was not ploughed in proper time, or season. She has been now for the last six years independant of the farmer; and the planting the potatoes, and the mode of taking them up, is sufficient to prepare the land for wheat, which she generally sows

herself about the middle of October, being careful to sow no more land at a time, than she can clear of potatoes that day.*

* I do not presume to offer any estimate of the national advantages, which *might be derived* from the general encouragement of *garden-husbandry* among cottagers. The benefit would, probably, far exceed any calculation, if the system were but generally adopted, of supplying this species of domestic occupation to the cottager and his family for their vacant hours.—Horticulture was the primary and original occupation of man. It is familiar and congenial to his nature; and in our soil and climate, and under the British constitution, it is exempt from risk and danger. The speculation of industry and attention thus employed, may be more or less profitable; but it will always afford reward and encouragement to labour and exertion. The practice of it will tend to promote domestic habits,—will attach the labourer to his own possessions and family,—will supply interesting occupation for his vacant hours,—and leave no space for the dissipation and idleness of the ale-house and the tap-room.—This is not vague and unsupported theory: but practical and experimental truth; for the evidence of which we may refer not only to this account of the family of Richard Millward, but to a succession and variety of facts, stated in the four preceding volumes of the Society's Reports. B.

27th April 1805.

OBSERVATIONS. -

This mode of culture proves, that both potatoes and wheat can be produced alternately upon the same land for a long course of years, provided, that a small quantity of manure be every year used for the potatoes ; and it shews that a cottager may procure food from a small portion of land by his own labour, without any expense or assistance for labour.*

* If cottagers families could be employed in *garden-husbandry*, without interruption of the cottager's daily labour, the benefit to them and to the country, and the advantage of breeding up children so as to be *industrious* and *useful*, would exceed all calculation. At the Bishop of Durham's, at Mongewell, he has allotted a little plot of ground, for the adjoining cottagers to cultivate, according to their means and industry. The produce of the preceding summer upon half a rood of this ground (the rent being two shillings and sixpence) is as follows ;

Five gallons and a half of turnip seed, at 5s.	
per gallon	1 7 6
Six sacks of potatoes	1 10 0
Pease and cabbages for the use of the cottager and his family.	

7th November 1805,

Both wheat and potatoes have been reckoned in the class of exhausting crops; but this mode of culture shews that great crops of both may be long alternately produced, which may probably be imputed to the culture by the spade and hoe, to the manuring every second year for potatoes, to the careful destroying of weeds, to the planting and sowing in the proper season, and to the preventing the earth from being too loose, by the mode of sowing the wheat before the potatoes are taken up.

An experienced farmer is of opinion, that the same culture and succession of crops will answer on almost any land, if properly drained and skilfully managed; for that altho strong land does not answer well for potatoes, nor very light land for wheat, yet that cultivation and manure, and particularly the manure of lime, will soon render strong land, when drained, more loose and will make light land more firm, especially if cultivated with the spade and hoe.

5th April 1805.

JONAS HOBSON'S ADVICE TO HIS CHILDREN.

AN old man, whose name was Jonas Hobson, had supported a large family with industry; and had endeavoured to bring them up in the fear of God. He instructed them with all the knowledge he had himself, but chiefly gave them that best instruction,—a good example. He went constantly to church, read his Bible on Sundays, was gentle and kind to every body; was never known either to swear or to get drunk, and prayed morning and evening, for God's blessing on himself and his family.

Being worn out at length by age and hard labour, and finding death approaching, he called his sons together, who were now young men, and raising himself in his bed, he thus spoke to them:

“What little advice I could give you, my dear children, has, I hope, by the

blessing of God, kept you, thus far honest and sober. I am now going to be removed from you; and as I have no worldly goods to leave among you, I have called you round my death bed, to give you my last blessing and advice; which will be a better legacy to you, if you will keep it, than if I had left you my house full of riches.

"This is a very wicked place in which you live. People seem to have lost all fear of God. What swearing, what drinking, what lying, and wickedness, of all kinds do we see! when I was young, there were no such doings. The church was then followed more, and the ale-house less. Justices, then, would not suffer such shameful work; and inn-keepers durst not entertain a guest in church time.

"But now, as if ale-houses were not enough, what a number of wicked pot-houses has the devil set up in every part of the parish! Good Lord! it is enough to make one's hair stand on end, to hear of such doings. There is hardly a part of the parish, where you may not find one of these bad houses. Here the devil keeps

school. Here he gets together wicked people ; who draw in poor lads, and teach them to curse and to swear ; to go after cock-fights and barrels of beer ; and to neglect both their business and their church. Good Lord ! I often wonder the earth does not open and swallow them up ; as you read in the Bible it once swallowed up some wicked people.

“ I have often, my dear sons, warned you against these vile houses ; and I believe you have yet never frequented them. But I am now going to leave you. What temptations you may afterwards meet with, God knows ; but, I hope, my dying words will sink deep into you. Depend upon it, these bad houses are the beginning of all wickedness. Many a poor lad might have done well, if he had not been drawn into these wicked places.

“ Look at those, I beseech you, who frequent them. You will always find them idle profligate people ; esteemed by nobody, and doing good to nobody ; suffering their poor families, if they have any, to grow up in rags and nastiness,

“ Then again, look at those who frequent the church. Generally speaking, you will see them orderly industrious people, who have either led good lives, or have left off their wickedness and become good.

“ I beg of you, therefore, my dear sons, and charge you, on my blessing, that, while you live in this world, you will observe these two things: FOLLOW THE CHURCH, and AVOID THE POT-HOUSE. You will then be in the way of learning good, and out of the way of learning evil. And, though you have but little of this world's wealth, I hope God's blessing will attend you, and, when this world ends, he will carry you to a better.”

The old man, having said these words, shook his sons affectionately by the hand, prayed for God's blessing upon them; and then desired that nobody might interrupt him in his last moments: He then turned his face to the wall, lay quiet and composed; was often seen to lift his hand gently to heaven, and once or twice to stretch it out, and grasp the hands of his sons, who sat

round him in silent sorrow. Thus he lay about two hours; and breathed out his pious soul at nine o'clock that evening.

He had been so good a man, that the parson, without being desired, gave him a fine character on Sunday: and, as they were going out of church, one of the people said, *he wished that character was his.* The parson, overhearing him, turned round and asked, *Why then Thomas don't you make it so?* The parson afterwards spoke to the 'squire, and they joined together, and put up a stone over his grave, with this inscription;—Here lies the body of Jonas Hobson, formerly of this parish, now a saint in heaven. He was a pious man, and set a good example to a wicked place. You, who did not follow his example during his life, follow it now, after his death, and the Lord will yet be merciful unto you. His mortal life began July 3, 1705. His immortal life, Jan. 19, 1779.

3d May, 1805.

THE POOR MAN, by sin and wickedness, will make poverty insupportable,

FOR

LYING makes him despised :

DRUNKENNESS ruins himself, and his family :

IDLENESS produces Beggary :

DISCONTENT is Unhappiness :

SWEARING is serving the Devil without wages :

STEALING leads to the Gallows :

AND,

What is worse than all, WICKEDNESS, which makes him unhappy in THIS world, carries him into everlasting misery in the next.

On the other hand, by religion in low circumstances, he may become as happy, as this world can make him :

FOR

HONESTY gains him a character :

TRUTH makes his word respected :

SOBRIETY preserves his health :

KIND BEHAVIOUR makes his home pleasant :

CLEANLINESS makes it comfortable :

INDUSTRY drives out want :

CONTENTMENT is real happiness :

FAITH in CHRIST and HOLY PRAYERS make holy lives :

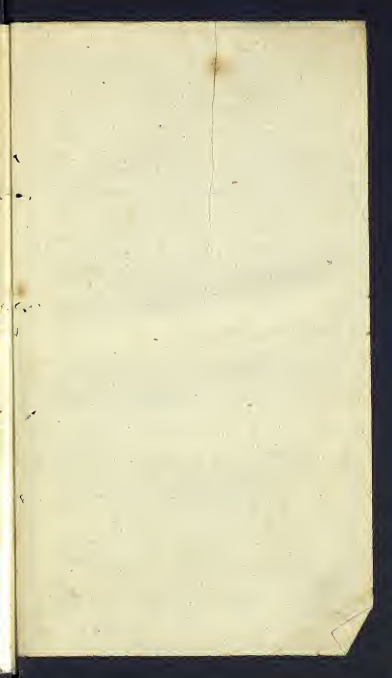
He generally sees his CHILDREN FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE :

A GOOD CONSCIENCE gives him peace at last :

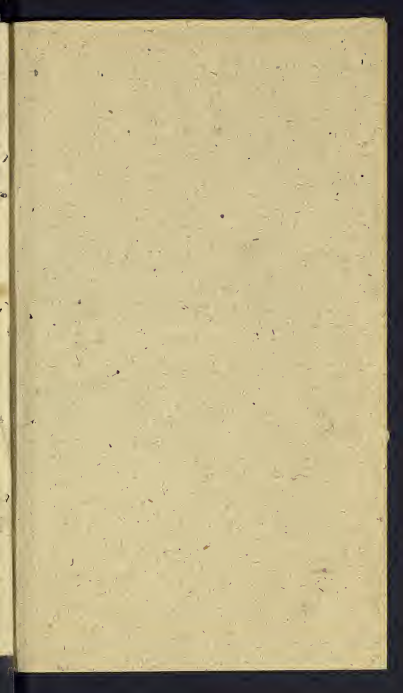
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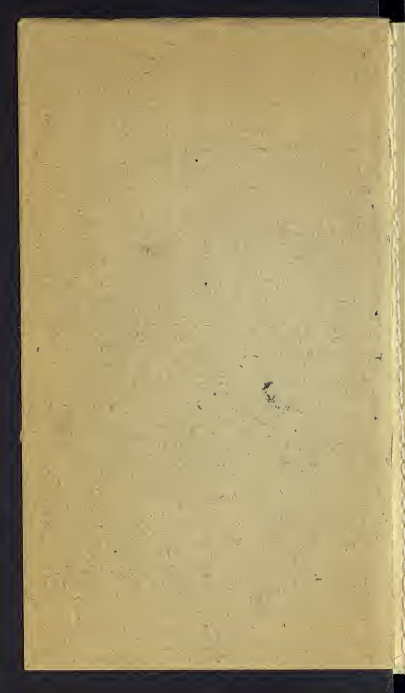
EVERLASTING HAPPINESS crowns all.











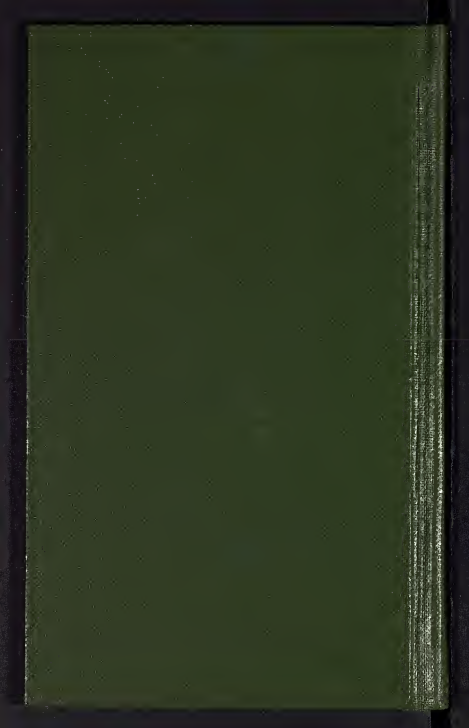


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